

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 2 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3/30/65

FROM: *[Handwritten initials]*

SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

SUBJECT:

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka - VICTIM;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
CR - EL

Re report of SA *[redacted]* 3/30/65, at
Mobile (Selma).

Enclosed to the Bureau are five copies of referenced
report of SA *[redacted]*, dated 3/30/65. Additional
copies are provided because of the nature of the investi-
gation.

Additional copies are provided Birmingham and
Mobile for investigative use.

The report is not being disseminated to Departmental
Attorney or USAs until advised to do so by the Bureau.

A Federal Grand Jury is scheduled for April 5, 1965,
and Bureau is requested to promptly advise.

10876
2 - Bureau (Enc. 5) - *7 CR*
1 - Birmingham
1 - Mobile (Selma)
JRC/mjr
(4)

REC-1047-2561-21

4 APR 1 1965

EX-101

STAT. SECT. *[Handwritten initials]*

Memorandum

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-29-65

M. A. Jones

ACT: FBI PRESS RELEASES

Belmont	
Mohr	
DeLoach	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

The attached news ticker story concerning the Alabama civil rights murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo highlights the Bureau's discretion in handling press releases regarding major investigations.

The wisdom of the Bureau's long-standing policy of issuing an initial and pertinent press release dealing with facts rightfully belong to the public and then declining additional comment has been reaffirmed in this case and has stimulated even greater respect for the Bureau's proper position in handling such matters. The apparent respect evidenced by the press for the Bureau's position is another vindication of the propriety of the Bureau's press release procedures.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

JRH:rs (8)

ENCLOSURE

APR 9 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

11 APR 2 1965

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

MAR 27 1965

TELETYPE

I WASH DC

I BIRMINGHAM

35 PM CST URGENT 3-27-65 WKP

: DIRECTOR

ON: BIRMINGHAM (44-1235) (P) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS / ET AL / VIOLA LUIZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY J. LUIZZO /
ROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH EL.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELS, MARCH TWENTYSIX, LAST.

[REDACTED] ADVISED EUGENE THOMAS, GARY THOMAS
 WE, AND WILLIAM O. EATON RELEASED ON BOND APPROXIMATELY NINE THIRTY
 Y., EVENING MARCH TWENTYSIX. BOND PUT UP IN FORM OF PROPERTY FROM
 MY KLANSMEN. THREE SUBJECTS IMMEDIATELY MET WITH WATT MURPHY,
 TORNEY FOR UKA, INC., KKKK, ROBERT SHELTON, IMPERIAL WIZARD,
 BERT CREEL, GRAND DRAGON, REALM OF ALABAMA, RALPH ROTON, BELIEVED
 ATE KLEAGLE, ROBERT THOMAS, GRAND TITAN, PROVINCE NUMBER FIVE, AND
 NE REEVES, EXALTED CYCLOPS, EASTVIEW KLAVERN, IN MURPHY'S
 FICE. PRIMARY DISCUSSION CONCERNING WHY ROWE NOT GIVEN HEARING
 FIF FIVE P.M. ROWE ADVISED GROUP HE WAS DRI AND AROUND
 RMINGHAM AND TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, BY FBI, WHILE FBI QUESTIONED
 AND THAT FBI OFFERED HIM ~~NOTE~~ ANYTHING HE WANTED ~~UNQUOTE~~ TO

D PAGE

56 APR 6 1965

REC-18
MCT-20

EX-101

44-2870
21 MAR 29 1965

SIN PAGE TWO

VE EVIDENCE IN MURDER CASE AND AGAINST SHELTON AND THE KLAN IN
NERAL.

D AND ACK

.....JRL

I WASH DC

CL

FBI

Date: 3/27/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (44-New) (RUC)

EUGENE THOMAS

ET AL;

MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM
CR

3/27/65 news photo of THOMAS in "The Tampa Tribune" resembles her husband. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She has not seen [REDACTED] since [REDACTED] last heard from him [REDACTED] when he called her by telephone and was apparently in or near Tampa. She is in process of obtaining divorce from [REDACTED]. She does not know [REDACTED] present whereabouts. She never knew him to have any connection with the KKK or interest in civil rights matters. Only basis for thinking he might be identical with THOMAS is physical resemblance of newspaper photographs.

[REDACTED] knows very little of [REDACTED] background as she says most of the information he gave her was later found to be untrue. She described [REDACTED] as follows:

White male, age 47, born [REDACTED], height 6', weight 180 pounds, hair brown, eyes green, complexion fair, medium build, SSN [REDACTED] has tattoos of star on right forearm.

③ - Bureau
2 - Birmingham
1 - Tampa
HKR:jw
(6)
C C. Wick

MCT-20
REC-18

44-211-1-
2 MAR 29 1965

EX-101

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M Per _____

TP 44-New

Foregoing is for information Bureau and Birmingham.
In the absence of additional information indicating [REDACTED] b7
is identical to THOMAS, no further investigation contemplated
by Tampa.

The Attorney General

April 1, 1965

Director, FBI

MURDER OF VIOLA LUIZZO
LOWHEDS COUNTY, ALABAMA
MARCH 25, 1965
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

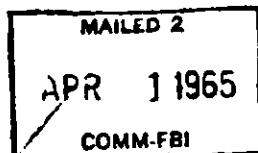
Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth developments in the FBI's investigation of the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Luizzo which may be of interest to you.

This information has been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. John Dear (Enclosure)
Acting Assistant Attorney General

JWH/P
(13)



ENCLOSURE

9 APR 5 - 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
APR 1 11 23 AM '65
19 APR 2 1965

- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley

April 1, 1965

**MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA
MARCH 25, 1965**

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

This is to advise you of developments in our investigation of the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965. As you are aware, four subjects, Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., and Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., were arrested by FBI Agents on March 26, 1965, and charged with violation of a Federal civil rights statute in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo. The four subjects have posted \$50,000 bond each and have been released on this charge pending Federal Grand Jury action. Subject Wilkins has also posted a \$500 bond on a Parole Violators Warrant which grew out of his previous conviction for a violation of the Federal Firearms Act.

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7C

JWH/pak
(13)

Rosen
4/1/65
John

44-28601

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐ ENCLOSURE

Memorandum

THE DIRECTOR

DATE: 3/26/65

TO : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
Viola Liuzzo, Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

For the Director's information, Inspector Malley and I have been in direct touch with this situation throughout the night, and with Inspector Sullivan in Selma and SAC Ingram and Inspector McGovern at Birmingham, to insure that it was handled rapidly and thoroughly.

The Birmingham Office and Inspector Sullivan at Selma are working closely together so that we can develop the maximum of information in the minimum of time. Both offices have been instructed that all agents must keep their mouths shut and our goal is to develop sufficient detail from the informant to permit full identification of the subjects and corroborating evidence that will permit us to take action as soon as possible today, from the standpoint of arrests and searches.

You will be kept advised.

REC-11

AHB:CSH (5)

cc Mr. Belmont
Mr. Rosen
Mr. McGowan
Mr. DeLoach

4 APR 2 1965

EX-101
no information is
to come out from
Alabama. 2:45 P.M.
I will see the President
when something can be
said & President will
announce it. Put all
speed possible on this.

9 APR 5-1965

CC-MR. TOLSON

DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

661.
FBI

Date: 3-29-65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

Attention: Laboratory

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka. - Victim;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victim
CR - EL

ReButel to MOBILE/SELMA 3-29-65.

On the night of 3-25-65 victim's car was fired upon by handguns believed to be .38 caliber and .22 caliber

[REDACTED]

Wick (4) - Bureau (RM) (Enc. - 4)
(1 - Package)
2 - Mobile

BWG:kg
(6)

REC-11

EX-101

2 MAR 31 1965

SEVEN

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE BIRMINGHAM	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MOBILE	DATE 3/30/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/26-30/65
TITLE OF CASE GENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; LILLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.; MARY THOMAS ROWE, JR. ANTHONY LIUZZO - VICTIM; ROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM.		REPORT MADE BY ASAC ROBERT G. JENSEN	TYPED fc
		CHARACTER OF CASE <div style="text-align: right;">CR - EL</div>	

REFERENCE: Birmingham teletype to Bureau, 3/26/65.

P.

INFORMANTS:

[REDACTED]

b7D

It is noted that copies have been designated for the U. S. Attorney at Montgomery and at Birmingham, Ala., however, no dissemination of this report is being made at this time.

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW																
COPIES MADE: 5 Bureau (AMSD - REGISTERED MAIL) 5 Mobile (Selma) 1 USA, Montgomery 1 USA, Birmingham 5 Birmingham (44-1236)	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.5em;">REC-6</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>4 APR 1 1965</p> </div>																
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT	NOTATIONS																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>NO.</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>BY</th> <th>REMARKS</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>3-31-65</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>4-1-65</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4-1-65</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NO.	DATE	BY	REMARKS	1	3-31-65			2	4-1-65			3	4-1-65			<div style="height: 100px;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; transform: rotate(-15deg);">ST/Adm.</p> </div>
NO.	DATE	BY	REMARKS														
1	3-31-65																
2	4-1-65																
3	4-1-65																

6 APR 1 1965

BH 44-1236

6

The following description was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.
Residence	205 16th Place SW, Apartment 35A Firmingham, Alabama
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date and place of birth	August 15, 1930, Savannah, Georgia
Height	6'
Weight	220 lbs.
Build	Medium
Hair	Red
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Light
Social Security No.	255-46-1902
Employment	Presently unemployed
Military service	U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, SN 1044062; honorably discharged March 4, 1957
Marital status	Divorced

At approximately 4 p.m., March 26, 1965, CARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., was placed under arrest by SAs [REDACTED] at a location on the outskirts of Birmingham in the vicinity of the southern city limits of Birmingham, Alabama. b7c

ROWE was advised that he did not have to furnish any information, that any information he furnished could be used against him in a court of law and that he could consult an attorney. He was informed that he would be transported immediately to the office of the U. S. Commissioner in the U. S. Post Office Building at Birmingham, Alabama, where bond would be set and that while at the U. S. Post Office Building he would be placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal. ROWE made no statement except to the effect that he would contact his attorney while at the office of the U. S. Marshal.

ROWE was immediately transported to the office of the U. S. Marshal at Birmingham, Alabama, and was afforded an immediate appearance before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, it being noted that ROWE's attorney, MATT MURPHY, JR., was present.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SAs [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/29/65
mjh

Date 3/26/65

1. At 1:48 p.m., March 26, 1965, a search warrant was served at the apartment of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Apartment Number 35A, 205 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, in the company of Special Agents [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED] executed search warrant issued by the U. S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

The apartment was entered through the unlocked rear door, after permission to enter had been requested. It was determined upon entering the apartment that it was unoccupied. A copy of the search warrant and a list of items taken pursuant to the search warrant was left at the premises at 2:35 p.m.

The premises were searched by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and the search was completed at 2:35 p.m. March 26, 1965.

The following items were taken:

1) One metal container, army brown in color with the following markings " Do not use as food container, 900 cartridges 30 carbine ball M1 in 50 round cartons lot LC 13029."

Containing as follows:

- A) 139 rounds of various caliber live ammunition and one spent .22 cartridge casing.
- B) One 30 round capacity magazine for .30 caliber revolver.
- C) One cloth bag containing 126 rounds various caliber live ammunition and one spent .38 cartridge casing. The bag is marked Cherry-Burrell Corp.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/26/65 b7c

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

- D) Four boxes of "Western Brand Super-Match" midrange .30 caliber ammunition containing a total of 80 rounds of live ammunition and 80 spent cartridges.
- 2) One German made bayonet and sheath.
- 3) One .38 caliber Western live cartridge found on bedroom dresser.

EUGENE THOMAS was placed under arrest by
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama, at 11:08 a.m.,
March 26, 1965. b7c

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] & b7c
SA [REDACTED] : mjh Date dictated 3/26/65

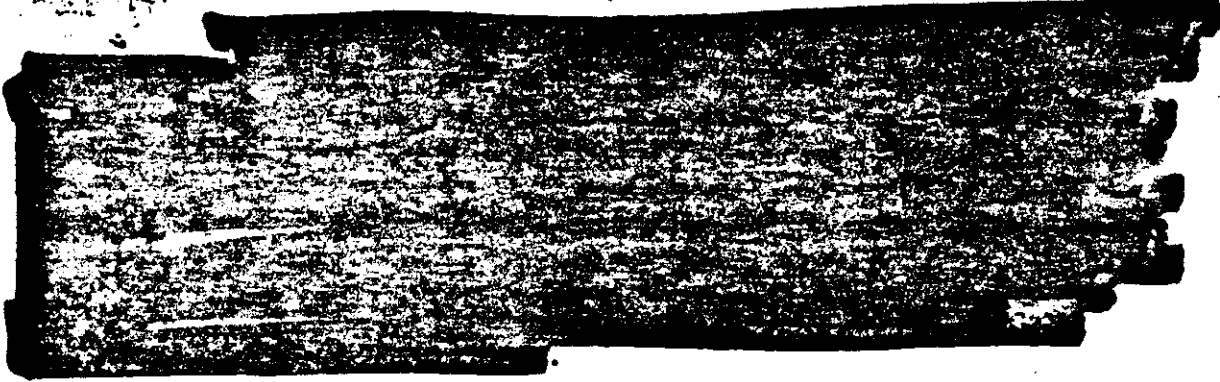
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS arrived at the FBI Office,
14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 11:45 a.m.,
March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] mjh 576 Date dictated 3/26/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



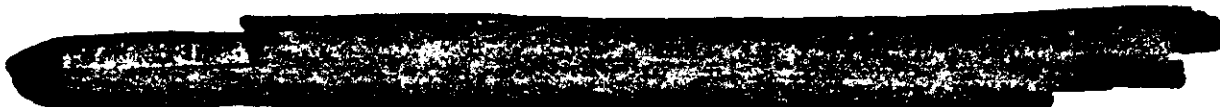
b7A



b7A



b7A



b7A

EUGENE THOMAS furnished the following information
pertaining to his physical description:

Name:	EUGENE THOMAS, aka Gene
Date of Birth:	March 21, 1923
Place of Birth:	Bessemer, Alabama
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	6'
Weight:	178 pounds
Eyes:	Blue
Hair:	Brown
Scars and Marks, and tattoos:	Tattoo of girl in bathing suit; on left upper outer arm, word LOUISE under picture. Two tattoos of birds, color blue and red on chest. Birds being approximately 3 inches by 2 inches.

Relatives: Wife, FLOSEY LOUISE THOMAS,
nee, GARRETT

Children: WAYNE THOMAS, age 31
Wilks Station
Bessemer, Alabama;

CALVIN MERLE, age 19
U. S. Air Force, California;

MICHAEL ELMIS, age 15
resides with parents;

Aunt, LEON TRAMBLE
4th Avenue
Bessemer, Alabama;

Uncle, J. E. BOYD
Hueytown, Alabama;

Employed: Fairfield Steet Company (TCI)
position, machinist (employed
24 years)

Current residence: 1519 12th Avenue, North
Bessemer, Alabama
(three years)

Past residence: 1600 Block Fairfax Avenue
Bessemer, Alabama
(fifteen years)

Arrests: THOMAS admits being arrested in
1949 by the Jefferson County
Sheriff's Office, in Bessemer
for being drunk on the highway.
He also admits that in 1963 he
was arrested by the Tuscaloosa
County Sheriff's Office for being
drunk on the highway, and carrying
a concealed weapon. Mr. THOMAS
said that it was during a demonstration
that this arrest was made. Mr.
THOMAS also advised that he has
been arrested for two minor motor
vehicle violations in Bessemer,
Alabama.

-BH 44-1236

5

Military Service:	U. S. Navy Serial Number,
	837 5461
Selective Service Number:	1 70 23 97
Social Security Number:	418 18 1816
Alabama Drivers License Number:	05 23 123.

1Date 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS departed the FBI Office, 14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, en route to the U. S. Commissioner's Office, located in the U. S. Courthouse, 5th Avenue and 19th Street. He arrived at the U. S. Commissioner's Office in the U. S. Courthouse at 1:29 p.m. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED]: mjh b7c Date dictated 3/26/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Incidental to the arrest of EUGENE THOMAS and a search of his person, the following items were removed from his person by SA [REDACTED] of the Birmingham Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A receipt for this property was furnished to EUGENE THOMAS on March 26, 1965. The following pages contain copies of the items of interest. b7c

First, a commission card designating EUGENE THOMAS as a Special Constable for the purpose of law enforcement only.

The second is a small metal police badge bearing the name G. THOMAS, Special Police, Fairfield, Alabama.

The third, a commission card entitled commission for special policeman, City of Bessemer, State of Alabama.

[REDACTED] b7c

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
Jefferson County

I, Eugene Thomas

Do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Alabama, so long as I continue as citizen thereof; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Special Constable to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Eugene Thomas (D. S.)
Sworn and subscribed before me, the 11th day of January 1965
Walter G. Bridges Notary Public

COMMISSION

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
Jefferson County

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:
That I, WALTER G. BRIDGES, as Judge of the Bessemer County Court, do hereby appoint and empower

Eugene Thomas AS A
SPECIAL CONSTABLE for the purpose of LAW ENFORCE-
MENT only, in and for Precinct 33 of Jefferson County, Ala.
Given under my hand this 4th day of January, 1965
Walter G. Bridges
Walter G. Bridges, Judge
Bessemer County Court



COMMISSION FOR SPECIAL POLICEMAN
STATE of ALABAMA CITY OF BESSEMER
Jefferson County

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This Is To Certify That Eugene Thomas
has been duly Sworn in and appointed by me as a SPECIAL
POLICE OFFICER, in and for the City of Bessemer, to
hold such office without compensation until the
23rd day of May 1965
This 23rd day of May 1965
unless otherwise ordered. This Commission may be revoked
at discretion of the Chief of Police.
George M. Damon
Chief of Police

Date March 27, 1965

In connection with the serving of a search warrant, served on Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS, wife of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, and in connection with a Consent to Search statement voluntarily furnished by Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS concerning her 1958 Oldsmobile, bearing 1965 Alabama license 1B-19643, the following articles were taken, as indicated below:

Article:

1 - Smith & Wesson
.38 revolver,
SN C418827

6 rounds R-P.38
Special ammunition

1 - .38 Smith and
Wesson snub-
nosed revolver
SN 179485

5 rounds .38
caliber ammunition
(4 - REM-UMC.38
special, 1 - R-P
.38 special)

1 box Peters 12
gauge SP extra long
range shotgun shells

3 boxes Winchester
.38 special ammuni-
tion

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [redacted] ela 57c Date dictated 3/26/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

BH 44-1236

Article:

6 Remington .38
special rounds of
ammunition in box

1 Revelation 12
gauge shotgun shell

1 Newport Model CN
double barrel sawed
off shotgun, Serial
Number T70594

1 box Remington
12 gauge shotgun
shells
containing 21 shells

1 box of spent .38
caliber shells

6 rounds Peters
.38 caliber
ammunition

b7c, A

Date 3/29/651

In connection with a search conducted at the residence of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue North, Bessemer, Alabama, pursuant to a search warrant dated March 26, 1965, the following articles were observed in the residence of EUGENE THOMAS and are as follows:

Description of Article

1 bullwhip

1 rusty chain, 30"
in length1 rubber hose, metal
lined, approxi-
mately 15" in lengthWhite Klan robe and
hood5 United Klans of
America applications

b7C, A

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BY 44-1236by SA [REDACTED] mfm Date dictated 3/29/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/26/65

At 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was apprehended at his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, by SAs [REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7A

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by [REDACTED] R: mjh Date dictated 3/26/65

b7c

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/26/65

At 11:27 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was placed in an FBI car by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was then transported from his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, to FBI Headquarters, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama. The arrival time at FBI Headquarters was 12:06 p.m., March 26, 1965. 52

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SAs [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] mjh Date dictated 3/26/65 67c

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

55

Date 3/26/65

[REDACTED]

b7
b7

[REDACTED]

b7

[REDACTED]

b7

[REDACTED]

b7

[REDACTED]

b7

[REDACTED]

Name
Address

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON
Route 6, Box 866
Bessemer, Alabama

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] mjh 3/26/65
and [REDACTED] 3/26/65

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BH 44-1236

(Description of EATON continued)

Birth	April 12, 1923 Limestone County, Alabama
Height	5'7½"
Weight	164 pounds
Hair	Brown, balding
Eyes	Blue
Scars and marks	One 4" operation scar stomach; one 4" scar left leg; tattoo "U. S. Army" left arm, upper.
Relatives	Wife - MIRIAN MARIE EATON Same address Son - WILLIAM O. EATON, JR. Age 14, same address Son - EARL JOSEPH EATON, Age 17, same address Son - JAMES ELLIOT EATON, Age 10, same address Son - JOHN EATON Age 7, same address Daughter - PAMELA SUE EATON Age 4, same address
Occupation	Retired steel port helper, Tennessee Coal and Iron, Fairfield, Alabama
Military service	U. S. Army January 22, 1940, to January 1, 1946. Discharge - honorable. Army Serial Number 20417902

3

BH 44-1236

(Description of EATON continued)

Social Security Number 423-18-1472

Alabama Driver's License 1412272

Selective Service Number 1-69-23-422

1Date March 27, 1965

[REDACTED]

b1
b7

[REDACTED]

b7c

At 12:56 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was photographed in the FBI Office. At 1:01 p.m. on March 26, 1965, EATON was fingerprinted in the FBI Office. The fingerprinting was completed at 1:06 p.m.

At 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was transported by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the FBI Office to the office of U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. EATON arrived at Mrs. CHARLTON's office at 1:36 p.m., March 26, 1965.

b7c

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [REDACTED] & SA [REDACTED] mjh b7c Date dictated 3/27/65

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Date 3-29-651

The following information was obtained from the wallet of WILLIAM O. EATON:

- (1) One note containing the words JO ANNE SKATES, 1617 Birkley Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama
- (2) One note bearing the name FRANK ELLIOTT, 425-3827
- (3) Note - sold to JOHN POINTS, 1950 Ford $\frac{1}{2}$ blue truck, 9-28-64, for \$85.00 signed W. O. EATON. Milner Exchange Hotel, 262-8371
- (4) Note bearing the name C. A. DOCKINS, 787-4388.
- (5) Note bearing the numbers 271

In addition to the above, Mr. EATON had, in his possession the following described medicines:

Coumadin, 5 mg., prescription #4243, Dr. HUTTO

Prescription #93219, Dr. W. B. HUTTO

Nitroglycerine 1/150 gr. (0.4 mg.)

Butisol Sod, $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., Prescription #42942, Dr. HUTTO.

On 3-26-65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] & SA [REDACTED] :ral 67C Date dictated 3-29-65

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Date March 27, 1965

At 11:05 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, was arrested at Highway 11, Bessemer, Alabama, while driving a two-tone green Chevrolet, bearing 1965 Alabama License Number 1B37863.

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7C

b7A

At 11:09 a.m., WILKINS was placed in an automobile of the FBI and was driven to FBI Headquarters by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

b7C

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SAs [REDACTED]

mjh b7C 3/27/65
Date dictated

1Date March 27, 1965

At 11:49 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., accompanied by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived in the Birmingham Office of the FBI. WILKINS was photographed and fingerprinted and departed the office in the company of Agents [REDACTED] 1:21 p.m. b7c

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] & SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/27/65 b7c

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Date March 27, 1965

[REDACTED]

b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED]

b7D

Name	COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. also known as Lee Wilkins
Birth	July 25, 1943 Birmingham, Alabama
Height	5'9"
Weight	195 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Dark brown
Build	Stocky
Complexion	Medium
Education	Fairfield High School, quit in 11th grade.
Occupation	Automobile mechanic - self-employed
Military Service	None

on 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [REDACTED] & SA [REDACTED] mjh 57C Date dictated 3/27/65

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BH 44-1236

(Description of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS continued)

Selective Service No.	1-122-43-393 Registered with Selective Service Local Board 122, 4604½ Gary Avenue, Fairfield, Alabama. Registered July 31, 1961.
Parents	COLLIE LEROY WILKINS - father, 4005 - 40th Way; ALICE ELIZABETH WILKINS, Nee Austin - mother 4005 - 40th Way Fairfield, Alabama
Brothers	GLEN WILKINS, 4 years, at home JAMES WILKINS, 12 years, at home.
Sister	MARIE WILKINS, 16 years, at home
Marital status	Single - never married
Scars and marks	Appendix scar on abdomen
Prior arrests	1961-62, Midfield, Alabama, Driving While Intoxicated; 1963-64, Hueytown, Alabama; FPA; 1964, Bessemer, Alabama, AIM (Assault With Intent to Murder)
Prior employments	United Motor Freight, Birmingham, mechanic, 6 months, 1964 until December 31, 1964; Don Drennan Motor Company, Birmingham, mechanic, 4 years, 1960, early part of 1964

BH 44-1236

(Description of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS continued)

Characteristics

Sometimes wears glasses.

Vehicle owned

1946 Chevrolet pick-up
truck, white, red, green,
rusted.

Date March 29, 1965

Pursuant to a search warrant issued by LOUISE O. CHARLTON, United States Commissioner, Birmingham, on March 26, 1965, the living quarters of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., who resides with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, SR., at 4005 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, were searched by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The search warrant was presented to Mr. and Mrs. WILKINS at their residence, by SA [REDACTED] at which time Mr. WILKINS stated that he would interpose no objections to the search.

There was located in a closet of the room normally occupied by COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and his younger brother, one Wards Western Field Repeating Rifle, Model 31A, .22 caliber, long rifle, which was disengaged from the stock, and contained in a brown canvas carrying case. No ammunition for this rifle was located. b7c

[REDACTED]

A copy of the search warrant as issued by United States Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON was left with Mr. and Mrs. WILKINS, SR., reflecting the above described rifle had been taken, pursuant to the search warrant, by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], at 5:30 P.M. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Fairfield, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] : elc b7c Date dictated 3/29/65

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1
BH 44-1236
RGJ:mjh

[REDACTED] U. S. Marshal's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, advised that EUGENE THOMAS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON were released on \$50,000 bond at 9:30 p.m., March 26, 1965. 67c

She advised that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS was not released on March 26, 1965, as he was held on a probation violator's warrant issued by U. S. District Judge C. W. ALGOOD, Birmingham, Alabama. [REDACTED] said that WILKINS was subsequently released on \$50,000 bond for the warrant in connection with the shooting of victim, Mrs. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO and an additional \$500 bond on the probation violator's warrant. WILKINS was released at approximately 2:30 p.m., March 29, 1965. 67c

Date March 27, 1965

At 1:41 p.m. on March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., appeared before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. All three men were represented by Attorney MATT MURPHY. The U. S. Government was represented by Assistant U. S. Attorney R. MACEY TAYLOR.

Mr. TAYLOR advised the U. S. Commissioner that warrants had been issued for EATON, THOMAS and WILKINS in the Middle District of Alabama on March 26, 1965, for violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241. Mr. TAYLOR further stated the original warrant had not arrived at that time in Birmingham but should be in the possession of the U. S. Marshal in Birmingham on or before March 29, 1965.

At this time U. S. Commissioner CHARLTON stated that she would then set a temporary bond for the above three men. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Commissioner if she wished the recommendation of the U. S. Attorney's Office pertaining to the amount of the bond. The U. S. Commissioner stated she did not wish this recommendation and then set bond for each of the three above-listed men at \$50,000 each.

At this point, EATON, THOMAS and WILKINS were placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal in Birmingham, Alabama, in lieu of bond.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] : mjh 67c Date dictated 3/27/65

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Date March 29, 1965

LOUISE O. CHARLTON, U. S. Commissioner, Birmingham, Alabama, issued the following search warrants on affidavits sworn to by SA MARVIN M. EUBANKS on March 26, 1965:

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18408, for the search of Apartment #35-A, 205 - 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, the residence of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18406, for the search of the residence and automobile of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18409, for the search of the residence and automobile of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 - 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18407, for the search of the residence and automobile of COLLEY LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Birmingham, Alabama.

On March 26, 1965, the above-described search warrant issued in Case #18406 was returned unexecuted.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] / hss b7c Date dictated 3/29/65
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KLAN ASSOCIATIONS

EUGENE THOMAS

According to [REDACTED]
EUGENE THOMAS has been an active member of the Bessemer Klavern, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that EUGENE THOMAS is presently an active member of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON is a member at the present time of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK. 67

GARY THOMAS ROYE, JR.

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that he knew GARY THOMAS ROYE, JR., as a member of the Eastview Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK, for several years.

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.

[REDACTED] advised on March 29, 1965, that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., is a member at the present time of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama

March 30, 1965

Title	EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
Character	CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
Reference	Report of Assistant Special Agent In Charge Robert G. Jensen, dated March 30, 1965, at Birmingham, Alabama

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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**UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UKA)**

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, the Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. (The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several Southern States.)

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Third source advised on September 24, 1964, that the United Klans is currently an active organization, with Klaverns in several Southern states; that ROBERT M. SHELTON was re-elected Imperial Wizard on September 5, 1964, at a National Klonvocation in Birmingham, Alabama. The National Office remains in Suite 401, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama..